

### *Organized Crime*

5. effective and appropriate punishment in instances of organized crime murder conspiracy; and
6. possible guidelines for enforcement agencies in dealing with witnesses against organized crime.

#### And the amendment of Mr. Kaplan:

That the motion be amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"and that the Royal Commission report within six months of its appointment".

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** When the motion was last before the House, the Hon. Member for Huron—Bruce (Mr. Cardiff) had been given the floor. I will recognize other Members. On the amendment, the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson).

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Madam Speaker, I have already spoken on the main motion on March 12 when I introduced the motion. Today I would like to speak on the amendment of my colleague, the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan). In the four days this motion was debated, March 12, May 14, August 13 and October 23, there have been some very thoughtful speeches from all sides of the House. There have also been some speeches read by government supporters, which presumably represent the government's position. Summarized this would be: One, there is no need for a royal commission because the law officers of the Crown and the police are already doing everything that needs to be done. Two, a royal commission would take too long to report. Three, a royal commission would be expensive.

On the question of a royal commission taking too long to report, my colleague from York Centre moved his very helpful amendment which would require the commission to report within six months of having been appointed. That would certainly shorten the period to the minimum and that would keep the costs down. The royal commission, which has just reported under Mr. Justice Parker, I believe cost \$3 million, if we exclude the payment of legal fees for the person mainly involved, which added almost another million dollars. That ran for perhaps 18 months.

The third question, on the issue of a police investigation being adequate and that everything possible is being done, misses the point of Item No. 2 in my motion which reads:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider the advisability of appointing a Royal Commission to investigate organized crime in Canada and to include in its report observations and recommendations on:

2. The extent to which organized crime is connected to the institutions of Canadian society.

That, Madam Speaker, is not part of the mandate of our normal policing. I would like to read into the record an extract from James Dubro's *Mob Rule* in which he makes the most persuasive case for the establishment of a royal commission direct with a mandate to examine the extent to which organized crime is connected to the institutions of our society. I quote:

—a federal royal commission into organized crime would be one of the best ways to expose and effectively get at the business, the official and the political

connections of organized crime across the country, for all the nation to see and evaluate. Corruption of public officials and businessmen is one of the most pernicious areas of organized-crime activity, and the most difficult to uncover. Without corruption, organized crime could not thrive, and the efforts of the mob to corrupt police, judges, politicians, lawyers, and government officials are probably more deleterious to society than any other activity in which it engages. For the moment, the level of corruption in Canada lags some years behind that in the United States . . . , but this gap is closing. A commission could focus on this crucial area.

If our society is to effectively fight organized crime, the public must be fully informed, and the government and the police must have laws that give them the proper tools for the battle—without taking away the civil liberties of law-abiding Canadians. This can only be accomplished through a federal royal commission, which is the one thing that all major mobsters fear because of the inevitable public exposure and the concerted effort against them that would result. The time has come to put—organized crime in Canada on notice that their criminal activities are no longer to be tolerated and that they face very serious consequences if they continue, as they have for all of the twentieth century in Canada, with murder, extortion, drug trafficking, assaults, and other major organized crime activities.

The time has come to take a strong stand against the ongoing menace of organized crime. Mob rule should not be allowed to continue in Canada without a major counter-offensive.

I commend James Dubro's *Mob Rule* to all Members of the House.

In the couple of minutes I have left to me, I appeal to the Government to reconsider its decision. I know the Government has made a decision to defeat this motion. I do not know how the Government can do it on the basis of cost and on the basis of time. The cost of the human misery in our cities is incredible, and the cost to the economy is incredible. We are paying the costs. Every time organized crime becomes involved in legitimate business, costs go up. We see all kinds of competitive counter activities. Inferior products are used. The consumer is paying every step of the way. Then there are the human costs. In my own riding I have seen nice, decent family neighbourhoods where people are harassed and frightened by drug abusers and drug sellers on the streets.

Members opposite have made the point about the improvement in upcoming legislation and about how efficient our police are. This is all very true. The royal commission would not take away any resources from our police. It would, on the contrary, by shining the white light of publicity, focus on the need for more resources, and an informed citizenry would be pleased to support increasing the powers of the police to cope with this serious threat to our society without, of course, infringing upon civil rights of law-abiding citizens.

**Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert):** Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to speak on the motion of the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson) and I congratulate her on her motion.

I have in my constituency a maximum security institution, a medium security institution and two correctional institutions for men and women. I often wonder how many of those inmates in those institutions are actually there because they have taken part in some kind of organized criminal events or action. The Right Hon. John G. Diefenbaker, my predecessor in Prince Albert, used to say that there is a larger percentage